Secrets. II-27—100,000—21-6-43.

Development (1954 /) Department

SERIES.

G.O No. 5638

Dated 12 1941

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forests - Administration Report - 1943-44

Miscellaneous.

Government of Madras.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

G.O.No.5638, 6th December 1947.

Forests - Administration Report - 1945-46 Recc

READ - the following papers:-

From the Chief Conservator of Forests, dated 27th November 1947, L.No.332, Press.

Order - No.5638, Development, dated 6th December 1947.

Recorded.

2. During the year under report, there was no change in the trend of policy followedin previous years. The policy of working the forests to the best advantage, with silvicultural safeguards and with special attention to regeneration was continued.

The operations of the department were satisfactory. There was a general increase in the output of timber. The output was 95,740 tons compared with 87,820 in the previous year. Eight thousand five hundred and forty broad gauge sleepers were supplied to South Indian Railway.

Regeneration work was not overlooked. Timber plantations, mainly of teak, were formed over an area of 4,556 acres. The heavy demands for firewood by industrial concerns, railways, the City of Madras and several other towns and for the supply of charcoal necessitated advance felling of fuel coupes in many divisions. The quantity extracted was 466,738 tons. With a view to make good the over-exploitation and to ensure an adquate and steady supply of firewood for the future, fuel plantations were raised over a totalarea of 4,099 acres including concentrated regeneration of dry fuel forests in an area of 544 acreas chiefly by kumri method and casuarina was planted in a totala rea of 5,212 acres compared with 2,920 acres in the previous year. Proposals for planting fuel trees and casuarina in more areas are under consideration.

Six lakhs thirty-one thousand two hundred and sixteen cubic feet of soft wood were extracted for supply to military, plywood and match factories, etc. Soft wood plantations were raised in suitable localities to meet the growing demand for match wood, plywood and packing cases. The management of sandalwood areas was regulated by the prevalence of spike disease which necessitated the extraction of dead trees only. A quantity of 855 tons was extracted during the year under report. The sales of sandalwood fetched a revenue of Rs.22,02,655. Pyrethrum plantation in a total area of 2,388 acres on the Nilgiris and Palnis was maintained Bamboo extraction extended over an area of 1,121,282 acres and the value of bamboos removed was Rs.104 lakhs. Efforts were made wherever possible to encourage kumri cultivation to the mutual benefit of the department and ryots. Wattle was planted in 73 acres in all and cashew in about 500 acres.

3. The Forest Department continued to render assistance to villagers in all possible ways. The rates of grazing fees which were reduced by half in 1938 were continued unchanged. The concession of free removal of grass in head-loads and the removal of dead wood at a nominal charge in certain localities was continued Free grazing to hill tribes was allowed as usual. The reduced rates for the removal of green leaf manure was also continued .

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As usual, the domestic and agricultural needs of the people were met from the departmental forests as far as possible. The supply of small timber and fuel to ryots was made from coupes sold to contractors who were bound to supply the produce to the public at reasonable rates not exceeding those fixed by the District Forest Officer. Free grants of buildings materials were made to the poor to rebuild their houses destroyed by fire or floo

4. The Madras Forest College which was closed in July 1939 was reopened as a Post-War Development Scheme in October 1945 for the training of Forest Rangers . Two Forest Guards schools . were also conducted.

5. Grazing and grazing facilities continued to receive attention. Grazing permits were issued for 1,825,805 animals for reserved forests and for 738,069 animals for panchayat forests. The revenue realized in respect of reserved forests was Rs.4,07,923. A total sum of Rs,8,245 was spent on the improvement of water facilities.

6. The ameliorative measures undertaken by the department for the welfare of the hill tribes were continued.

7. The collection of minor forest produce formed one of the important activities of the department. The revenue derived from the sale of minor forest produce was Rs.9,21,795.

8. A special Fodder Division was formed at Bellary during the year for supply of hay to the Military Department. It arrange for the supply of fodder to the famine-stricken areas in Bellary a Anantapur districts.

9. A new temporary forest division was formed with headquarters at Chingleput for the casuarina plantation work. This division is still being continued.

10. A new soil conservation division was also formed during the year with a District Forest Officer and subordinate staff to take measures to combat the soil erosion on the Nilgiris and in th Attapady Valley.

11. With a view to promoting the Grow More Food Campaign simultaneously with the afforestation of lands, grant of lands for cultivation by 'kumri' meashod was encouraged. Under this method the cultivators are required to grow a certain number of trees in the areas allotted to them for cultivation of food crc

12. The total area of for sts under the management of fore panchayats was 3,024 square miles. The management of these forest has not been satisfactory and the question of transferring the mar management of these forests also to the Forest Department is engaging the attention of the Government.

13. The total revenue realized by the Forest Department was Rs.140.13 lakhs in 1945-46 compared with Rs.140-75 lakhs in the previous year. The surplus receipts over expenditure however increased from Rs.59.27 lakhs in 1944- 45 to Rs.63.73 lakhs in the year under report due to decrease in expenditure.

14. The conditions created by the war have resulted in th over-exploitation and indiscriminate felling of the private fores In order to prevent the indiscriminate felling of forests, the Government have enacted the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1946. The question of amending the Madras Fores Act to tighten the control over the private forests is under the

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under the consideration of the Government.

(By order of His Excellency the Governor)

K.G.MENON,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Conservator of Forests.
To the Accountant-General.
To the Board of Revenue.
To the Secretary to the Government of India , Ministry of Agriculture.
To the Inspector-General of Forests.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

15/7/54.